



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PERSONS IN
MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS**

PROMOTING COOPERATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

22-23 May 2013, Nassau, The Bahamas

PLENARY DISCUSSION OUTLINE

**Protection of Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups within mixed migratory
flows**

Thursday, 23 May 2013, 11:00-12:30

Context

While border control is essential for the purposes of combating international crime, including smuggling and trafficking, and averting security threats, protection safeguards are required to ensure that such measures are not applied in an indiscriminate or disproportionate manner and that they take into account the specific needs and rights of the different categories of persons involved in mixed migration, including asylum-seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied or separated children, women at risk and other vulnerable migrants. With regards to asylum-seekers and refugees, such measures should not lead to *refoulement* or the forced return of persons in need of international protection to territories where their lives or freedom would be threatened or at risk.

In this context, the establishment of a national functioning entry-system is an important element in any strategy relating to mixed movements. In response to the many challenges inherent in identifying and protecting refugees travelling with broader movements, in 2007, UNHCR developed a *10-Point Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration*, that provides a number of practical tools and suggestions to assist States in developing and implementing protection-sensitive migration strategies, that is, strategies that take into account the needs of refugees and other specific vulnerable groups traveling within mixed flows.

As part of national responses to mixed migration management, appropriate reception arrangements for mixed arrivals are also needed to ensure that the basic human needs of people involved in mixed movements can be met, tailored according to their specific needs. Once new arrivals have been identified, an initial determination or screening needs to be made with regard to their profile and their specific protection needs. To this end, referral mechanisms

and differentiated processes and procedures need to be put in place at arrival to ensure that the person's situation is met with the most appropriate response. These include differentiated procedures and processes for asylum-seekers and refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied or separated children, women at risk, other vulnerable migrants, and those seeking to migrate.

Globally, the sharing of experiences, challenges, and good practices in migration management can help stakeholders learn from similar experiences elsewhere and inspire their own legal, policy, and procedural responses to migration issues, in particular when dealing with vulnerable groups traveling within mixed migration flows.

The following questions should guide the plenary discussion with the aim to provide the participants an opportunity to exchange information, experiences, challenges and good practices and make recommendations on how to address the needs of victims of trafficking, children and other vulnerable categories of persons arriving within mixed migration movements. To further guide the participants, a copy of the *IOM-UNHCR Joint Screening Form* for the identification of trafficked victims will be shared during the session.

Key Questions

- What is your **country or agency's mixed migration context**: who are the vulnerable persons / groups that you encounter? What is their general profile (young/old, married / single, parent / no-children)? To what countries did they migrate and why? What happened to make them particularly vulnerable?
- What are the **existing legal, policy and operational mechanisms** in place in your respective countries to identify and address the needs of victims of trafficking, children, and other vulnerable groups arriving within mixed migration flows? (Is there a specific legal/policy/operational framework to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling? Are there any standards operational procedures or tools in place for the admission, identification, referral and counseling of vulnerable categories? What tools does your country/agency use **to screen** these persons to identify their category (victim of trafficking, unaccompanied minor, asylum seeker, etc.)? What **tools** does your country/agency use to assess these persons immediate needs and protection issues? Is there an adequate level of resources and expertise available?
- Which **agencies or stakeholders** have or can have primary responsibility for the various categories of vulnerable persons?
- What **kind of assistance** is offered to and received by the persons who are identified as vulnerable and need of protection (shelter, food, clothing, counseling, medical care, referral to other service, including access to asylum procedures for persons in need of international protection)?
- What are the **challenges in terms of coordination at national, bilateral and regional level**? How has your country/agency coordinated this assistance among various local, national, or bilateral agencies? Are there multi-stakeholders or inter-institutional mechanisms established at entry points to deal with victims of trafficking, children,

and other vulnerable groups arriving within mixed migration flows? Are there coordination systems at bilateral/regional level in place? How do you see the role of the international community and regional organizations and mechanisms in assisting States in the region to address the needs of vulnerable groups involved in mixed migration flows?

- How has your country/agency established **some good practices positive developments or lessons learned** at national or regional level to identify and protect these vulnerable persons? What good practices has your country/agency established?

Recommendations

- How would you address the challenges identified and what concrete recommendations would you make in this regard?